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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,558	09/12/2003	Takashi Tsuneshige	Q77407	6403
23373	7590	05/01/2007	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC			JAIN, RAJ K	
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.			ART UNIT	
SUITE 800			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20037			2616	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/01/2007		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/660,558	TSUNESHIGE ET AL.	
<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>		
Raj K. Jain	2616		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                    2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6)  Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.  
7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

Claims 1, 7 and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities: Line 10 in claim 1 change the word "of" to "or" and in line 11 replace "become" with "becomes". Similarly, line 21 of claim 7 change the word "of" to "or" and in line 22 replace "become" with "becomes", and in line 36 of claim 8 replace "become" with "becomes". Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kovacevic (US 2002/0178274 A1).

Regarding claims 1, 7 and 8, Kovacevic discloses an information transmitting apparatus (Fig. 1, paras 14-17) for transmitting information to a plurality of information receiving apparatuses 150 via a serial bus, the information transmitting apparatus comprising: a determination unit 140 (Fig. 1) configured to determine whether or not one or more of

the plurality of information receiving apparatuses are ready for receiving the information (see paras 16 and 40, the application unit 140 determines whether the receiver is ready to receive data; and

    a control unit configured to make the information refrain from being transmitted by performing a waiting operation until the one or more information receiving apparatuses become ready for receiving the information in cases where the determination unit determines that the one or more information receiving apparatuses are not ready for receiving the information (see Figs. 1 and 2, the MPP 120 provides the control in transmission of data via the ports 122, 124 or 126 to receiving apparatuses and is refrained from transmitting until an appropriate time as determined by a waiting period, see paras 41-44.).

Regarding claim 2, Kovacevic discloses a measurement unit configured to measure a waiting time during which the waiting operation is performed; and a transmission unit configured to transmit the information when the waiting time measured by the measurement unit reaches a predetermined value (see para 42).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kovacevic (US 2002/0178274 A1) in view of Sata et al (US 6751687 B1).

Kovacevic a method and system for determining if a receiver apparatus is ready to receive data or not and to refrain transmission accordingly.

Kovacevic fails to disclose a predetermined command whih is an AV/C SIGNAL\_SOURCE status command in compliance with an IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) 1394 standard.

Sata discloses a command is an AV/C SIGNAL\_SOURCE status command in compliance with an IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) 1394 standard (see col 1 lines 54-64, col 23 lines 1-27).

Providing a predetermined command allows for performing control between equipments connected through a predetermined bus line, and therefore enabling linking operations to be efficiently performed between the equipments connected through the IEEE 1394 system bus and the like.

Thus it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Sata within Kovacevic so as to enable linking operations to be efficiently performed between the equipments connected through the IEEE 1394 system bus and the like.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raj K. Jain whose telephone number is 571-272-3145. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*Raj K. Jain*  
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Art Unit 2616

April 23, 2007